



For Immediate Release
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Vermont’s Labor Force Down in December

Today, the Vermont Department of Labor released data on the Vermont economy for the time period covering December 2018. According to household data, the seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate for December was 2.7 percent. This reflects no change from the revised November rate. Embedded in this calculation is the monthly estimate of the Vermont labor force which decreased compared to the previous month’s estimate. Vermont businesses reported large seasonal gains to employment in industries related to tourism.

Commissioner’s Message

“Though these are preliminary numbers and additional work needs to be completed to finalize calendar year 2018, the downward trend in the Vermont labor force is of concern. December marks the sixth consecutive month with a decrease to the labor force. On a sub-state level, we know that these declines are not being evenly distributed across the state but are instead concentrated to more rural locations and the southern counties. From a business perspective, Vermont needs more workers to fill employment vacancies. A variety of employment opportunities exist for individuals with a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds. The Department can assist employers with recruiting efforts. For job seekers, the Department has a suite of job-search and job-training related programs. Please contact your local career resource center to learn about all of the Department’s services,” said Labor Commissioner Lindsay Kurrle.

Chart 1. Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted

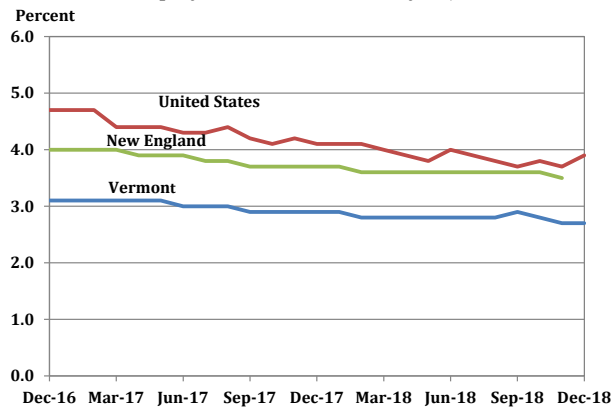
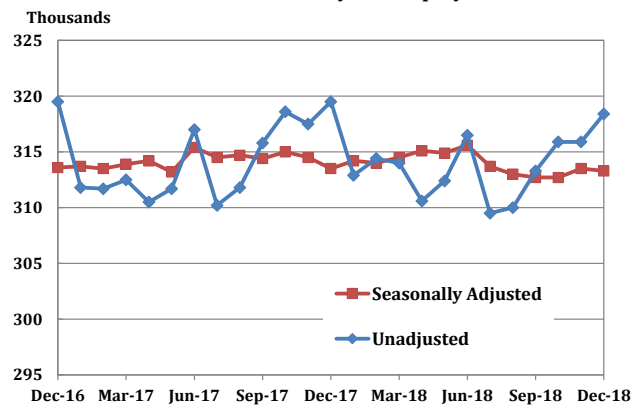


Chart 2. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment



State of Vermont Overview

The Vermont seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate held steady in December at a level of 2.7 percent. The comparable United States rate in December was 3.9 percent, which was an increase of two-tenths of one percentage point from the revised November estimate. The seasonally-adjusted Vermont data for December show the Vermont civilian labor force decreased by 708 from the prior month's revised estimate. The number of employed persons decreased by 510 and the number of unemployed persons decreased by 198. None of the changes were statistically significant in the seasonally-adjusted series.

The December unemployment rates for Vermont's 17 labor market areas ranged from 1.7 percent in White River Junction to 4.0 percent in Derby (note: local labor market area unemployment rates are not seasonally-adjusted). For comparison, the December unadjusted unemployment rate for Vermont was 2.3 percent which was unchanged from the revised unadjusted November level and a decrease of two-tenths of one percentage point from a year ago.

Analysis of Job Changes by Industry

Not-Seasonally-Adjusted

The preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' jobs estimates for December show an increase of 2,500 jobs when compared to the revised November numbers. There was an increase of 200 jobs between the preliminary and the revised November estimates due to the inclusion of more data. The monthly increase seen in the December numbers was primarily attributable to seasonal activity related to leisure and hospitality. The broader economic trends can be detected by focusing on the over-the-year changes in this data series. As detailed in the preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' December data, Total Private industries have decreased by 1,000 jobs (-0.4 percent) and Government (including public education) employment has decreased by 100 jobs (-0.2 percent) in the past year.

Seasonally-Adjusted

The seasonally-adjusted data for December reports a decrease of 200 jobs from the revised November data. As with the 'not-seasonally-adjusted' data, this over-the-month change is from the revised November numbers which experienced an increase of 300 jobs from the preliminary estimates. The seasonally-adjusted over-the-month changes in December were mixed at the sector level. Those with a notable increase include: Professional & Business Services (+400 jobs or +1.4%) and Manufacturing (+400 jobs or +1.3%). Sectors with a notable decrease include: Mining & Logging (-100 jobs or -12.5%), Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (-100 jobs or -3.2%) and Other Services (-300 jobs or -3.0%).

The Unemployment and Jobs Report for January is scheduled to be released on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Table 1. Vermont Labor Force Estimates, seasonally adjusted

	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	Change From:	
				November 2018	December 2017
Civilian Labor Force	344,405	345,113	344,870	-708	-465
Employed	335,223	335,733	334,820	-510	403
Unemployed	9,182	9,380	10,050	-198	-868
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.7	2.7	2.9	0.0	-0.2

Vermont's labor force, employment and unemployment statistics are produced from a combination of a Statewide survey of households and statistical modeling. The data are produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), a cooperative program with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau) and the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtlni.info/labforce).

Table 2. Vermont Labor Market Areas, Labor Force Estimates
not seasonally adjusted

Labor Market Area ¹	Civilian Labor Force	December 2018		Unemployment Rate ² (%)		
		Employed	Unemployed	Dec-18	Nov-18	Dec-17
Vermont Total	340,965	333,284	7,681	2.3	2.3	2.5
Barre-Montpelier	25,642	25,090	552	2.2	2.1	2.5
Bennington	10,952	10,609	343	3.1	3.1	3.4
Brattleboro	21,911	21,403	508	2.3	2.5	2.5
Burlington-South Burlington	123,241	121,071	2,170	1.8	1.9	1.9
Derby	12,750	12,245	505	4.0	3.5	4.7
Highgate	9,964	9,710	254	2.5	2.3	2.8
Manchester	11,627	11,315	312	2.7	3.1	2.8
Middlebury	18,140	17,721	419	2.3	2.3	2.5
Morristown-Waterbury	17,595	17,050	545	3.1	2.9	3.5
Newbury	2,718	2,646	72	2.6	2.3	2.9
Northfield-Waitsfield	7,058	6,910	148	2.1	2.2	2.2
Randolph	7,187	7,007	180	2.5	2.3	2.8
Rutland	21,141	20,627	514	2.4	2.5	2.7
Springfield	11,067	10,836	231	2.1	2.4	2.4
St. Johnsbury	13,278	12,892	386	2.9	2.6	3.0
White River Junction	19,544	19,214	330	1.7	1.8	1.9
Woodstock	4,063	3,976	87	2.1	2.7	2.4

¹The area names above are common language titles; for official names of areas including encompassing cities and towns please refer to the Vermont Labor Market Area map (<http://www.vtlni.info/lmadef2015.pdf>).

²Rate is an estimate for number of unemployed divided by total labor force, expressed as a percent.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS) produced by the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtlni.info/labforce.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau).

Table 3. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, seasonally adjusted (thousands)

NAICS Industry	Dec-18	Nov-18	Dec-17	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Nov-18	Dec-17	Nov-18	Dec-17
Statewide, Total Nonfarm	313.3	313.5	313.5	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Total Private	257.5	257.6	257.6	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Mining, Logging and Construction	15.9	16.1	15.7	-0.2	0.2	-1.2	1.3
Mining & Logging	0.7	0.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.1	-12.5	-12.5
Construction	15.2	15.3	14.9	-0.1	0.3	-0.7	2.0
Manufacturing	30.1	29.7	29.2	0.4	0.9	1.3	3.1
Durable Goods	19.1	18.8	18.1	0.3	1.0	1.6	5.5
Non-Durable Goods	11.0	10.9	11.1	0.1	-0.1	0.9	-0.9
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	53.6	53.7	54.8	-0.1	-1.2	-0.2	-2.2
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.3	9.2	-0.1	0.0	-1.1	0.0
Retail Trade	36.5	36.5	37.7	0.0	-1.2	0.0	-3.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7.9	7.9	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Information ¹	4.2	4.2	4.3	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-2.3
Financial Activities	12.2	12.3	12.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.8	0.0
Finance & Insurance	9.2	9.2	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3.0	3.1	3.0	-0.1	0.0	-3.2	0.0
Professional and Business Services	29.0	28.6	28.1	0.4	0.9	1.4	3.2
Professional & Technical Services	14.4	14.3	14.2	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.4
Administrative & Waste Services	12.8	12.3	12.1	0.5	0.7	4.1	5.8
Education and Health Services	66.8	66.4	65.9	0.4	0.9	0.6	1.4
Private Educational Services	13.4	13.4	13.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	53.4	53.0	52.6	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.5
Leisure and Hospitality	36.0	36.6	37.2	-0.6	-1.2	-1.6	-3.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4.8	4.8	4.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	4.3
Accommodation & Food Services	31.2	31.8	32.6	-0.6	-1.4	-1.9	-4.3
Other Services	9.7	10.0	10.2	-0.3	-0.5	-3.0	-4.9
Government	55.8	55.9	55.9	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Federal	7.1	7.1	7.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.4
State	19.0	19.0	19.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.5
Local	29.7	29.8	29.8	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3
Burlington-S. Burlington Metro (NECTA)	123.9	123.6	123.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
Total Nonfarm	123.9	123.6	123.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1

¹This is a new seasonally adjusted series as of January 2018.

With the release of January 2018 data on March 12, 2018, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) State and Area program will convert to concurrent seasonal adjustment. <https://www.bls.gov/sae/saeconcurrent.htm>

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtmi.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. See Annual Summary for details.

Table 4. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, not seasonally adjusted

NAICS Industry	Dec-18	Nov-18	Dec-17	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Nov-18	Dec-17	Nov-18	Dec-17
TOTAL NONFARM	318,400	315,900	319,500	2,500	-1,100	0.8	-0.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	260,300	257,200	261,300	3,100	-1,000	1.2	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING	45,800	46,700	44,900	-900	900	-1.9	2.0
MINING, LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION	15,500	16,700	15,600	-1,200	-100	-7.2	-0.6
Mining & Logging	700	800	800	-100	-100	-12.5	-12.5
Construction	14,800	15,900	14,800	-1,100	0	-6.9	0.0
MANUFACTURING	30,300	30,000	29,300	300	1,000	1.0	3.4
Durable Goods	19,300	19,000	18,200	300	1,100	1.6	6.0
Non-Durable Goods	11,000	11,000	11,100	0	-100	0.0	-0.9
Food Mfg.	5,500	5,400	5,400	100	100	1.9	1.9
SERVICE-PROVIDING	272,600	269,200	274,600	3,400	-2,000	1.3	-0.7
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	55,000	54,400	56,400	600	-1,400	1.1	-2.5
Wholesale Trade	9,300	9,400	9,300	-100	0	-1.1	0.0
Retail Trade	37,400	37,000	38,700	400	-1,300	1.1	-3.4
Food & Beverage Stores	9,900	9,800	10,000	100	-100	1.0	-1.0
General Merchandise Stores	3,600	3,400	3,500	200	100	5.9	2.9
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	8,300	8,000	8,400	300	-100	3.8	-1.2
Transportation & Warehousing	7,100	6,800	7,200	300	-100	4.4	-1.4
Utilities	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0	0.0	0.0
INFORMATION	4,200	4,200	4,300	0	-100	0.0	-2.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12,200	12,200	12,300	0	-100	0.0	-0.8
Finance & Insurance	9,200	9,200	9,300	0	-100	0.0	-1.1
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0	0.0	0.0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	28,600	28,600	27,700	0	900	0.0	3.2
Professional & Technical Services	14,400	14,200	14,200	200	200	1.4	1.4
Administrative & Waste Services	12,200	12,500	11,500	-300	700	-2.4	6.1
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	67,100	66,800	66,300	300	800	0.4	1.2
Educational Services	13,500	13,900	13,500	-400	0	-2.9	0.0
Colleges and Universities	8,400	8,700	8,400	-300	0	-3.4	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	53,600	52,900	52,800	700	800	1.3	1.5
Ambulatory Health Care Services	17,700	17,500	17,600	200	100	1.1	0.6
Hospitals	14,500	14,400	14,400	100	100	0.7	0.7
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	7,500	7,400	7,500	100	0	1.4	0.0
Social Assistance	13,900	13,600	13,300	300	600	2.2	4.5
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	37,700	34,300	39,200	3,400	-1,500	9.9	-3.8
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4,400	4,200	4,300	200	100	4.8	2.3
Accommodation & Food Services	33,300	30,100	34,900	3,200	-1,600	10.6	-4.6
Accommodation	13,500	11,000	14,600	2,500	-1,100	22.7	-7.5
Hotels & Motels	12,000	9,700	13,200	2,300	-1,200	23.7	-9.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	19,800	19,100	20,300	700	-500	3.7	-2.5
OTHER SERVICES	9,700	10,000	10,200	-300	-500	-3.0	-4.9
GOVERNMENT	58,100	58,700	58,200	-600	-100	-1.0	-0.2
Federal Government	7,100	7,100	7,000	0	100	0.0	1.4
State Government Education	10,400	10,700	10,300	-300	100	-2.8	1.0
Other State Government	9,400	9,300	9,600	100	-200	1.1	-2.1
Local Government Education	23,500	23,700	23,700	-200	-200	-0.8	-0.8
Other Local Government	7,700	7,900	7,600	-200	100	-2.5	1.3

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtلمي.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

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